

Message Text

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TAGS: EAGR, EPAP, UR

SUBJECT: MORE 1977 AGRICULTURE RESULTS

1. ACCORDING TO JANUARY ISSUE OF ZHIVOTNOVODSTVO, 1977 STATE PURCHASES OF ANIMAL PRODUCTS INCREASED BY THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS (WHEN COMPARED WITH 1976: MEAT, 1.2 MILLION TONS; MILK, 4.6 MILLION TONS; EGGS, 4.0 BILLION PIECES; WOOL 32.5 THOUSAND TONS.

2. CURRENT TENTH PLAN PRODUCTION GOALS WERE SET FORTH AS FOLLOWS (ANNUAL AVERAGE): MEAT, 16.4 MILLION TONS; MILK, 96.2 MILLION TONS; AND EGGS, 62.4 BILLION PIECES. THESE, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, WOULD BE INCREASES OF 2.4, 8.8 AND 11.0 RESPECTIVELY COMPARED WITH NINTH PLAN RESULTS.

3. ARTICLE ALSO LISTED 1977 CROP PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR GRAIN (194 MT), COTTON (8.7 MT), POTATOES (85 MT), AND VEGETABLES ("NEARLY" 25 MT).

4. COMMENT: MEAT PROCUREMENT FIGURE IS AMBIGUOUS AS IT IS NOT INDICATED WHETHER 1.2 MILLION TON INCREASE IS ON A LIVE OR SLAUGHTER-WEIGHT BASIS. IN EITHER CASE, IT WOULD BE SOMEWHAT LESS THAN 1975 PROCUREMENT WHEN PRODUCTION WAS A RECORD 15 MILLION TONS. IF PROCUREMENT FIGURE IS "LIEV" WEIGHT, WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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WE SUSPECT, IT WOULD MEAN STATE PURCHASES ARE TWO PERCENT BELOW EVEN THE 1974 LEVEL (WHEN PRODUCTION WAS 14.6 MILLION TONS). THUS, BREZHNEV'S "NEARLY 15 MILLION TONS" MEAT FIGURE CONTINUES TO APPEAR INFLATED.

5. PLAN GOALS FOR THE MAJOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS ARE SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN WE HAVE SEEN BEFORE. MEAT TARGET IS CLEARLY OUT OF

REACH, AS IT WOULD REQUIRE AVERAGE ANNUAL PRODUCTION OF 19.3 MILLION TONS IN LAST TWO YEARS OF PLAN, EVEN IF THE 1978 GOAL OF 15.6 COULD BE ACHIEVED. SOMEWHAT SANER MINDS APPEAR TO BE AT WORK ON THE MILK AND EGG GOALS.

6. POTATO AND VEGETABLE FIGURES CONFIRM GOOD (BUT BELOW PLAN) RESULTS IN THESE COMMODITIES. PRODUCTION LEVELS ARE NEARLY IDENTICAL TO 1976, BUT QUALITY APPEARS TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER. MATLOCK

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